

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.(original) A conveying apparatus for guiding a rod-like ceramic molding, continuously extruded from a mold and extending from the mold while not yet cut, to a cutter for cutting the rod-like ceramic molding into ceramic blocks, each having a predetermined length, wherein

the conveying apparatus has pads, each having a placement surface for placing the rod-like ceramic molding while being in contact with the outer circumference of the rod-like ceramic molding, and the placement surface of the pad has an axial length shorter than a half of an axial length of the ceramic block to be cut by the cutter, and

a portion of the rod-like ceramic molding to be cut off as the ceramic block is held and conveyed by two or more of the pads.

2.(original) A conveying apparatus for guiding a ceramic molding as defined by claim 1, wherein the ceramic block is capable of providing two or more of final ceramic molding.

3.(currently amended) A conveying apparatus for guiding a ceramic molding as defined by claim 1-~~or~~2, wherein the pad on which the rod-like ceramic molding is

placed is adapted to advance in the extruding direction at a speed generally equal to the extrusion-molding speed of the rod-like ceramic molding.

4.(original) A conveying apparatus for guiding a ceramic molding as defined by claim 1, wherein the portion to be cut off is held by the same number of pads as the final moldings cut off from the ceramic block.

5.(original) A conveying apparatus for guiding a ceramic molding as defined by claim 1, wherein at least the placement surface of the pad is formed of low resilience material easily deformable in conformity with the contour of the rod-like ceramic molding when being in contact with the latter.

6.(original) A conveying apparatus for guiding a ceramic molding as defined by claim 5, wherein the low resilience material is a foamed material selected from a group of urethane, melamine, Teflon and silicon.

7.(original) A conveying apparatus for guiding a ceramic molding as defined by claim 1, wherein the placement surface has a cross-section taken along a plane vertical to the axial direction is in conformity with a cross-section of the rod-like ceramic molding taken along a plane vertical to the axial direction.

8.(original) A conveying apparatus for guiding a ceramic molding as defined by claim 1, wherein the ceramic molding is of a honeycomb structure having cells formed so that cell walls are arranged in a honeycomb manner.

9.(original) A conveying apparatus for guiding a ceramic molding as defined by claim 1, wherein the conveying apparatus comprises a rotary roller and a belt adapted to advance by the rotary roller, and the pad is bonded to a conveyor surface of the belt for conveying the rod-like ceramic molding.